

# NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

## Communications Division

Mica Perry, Communications Director

317.232.1292 or [mperry@cji.in.gov](mailto:mperry@cji.in.gov)

Rachel Meyer, Communications Manager

317.232.7610 or [rmeyer@cji.in.gov](mailto:rmeyer@cji.in.gov)



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***“Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.” Ends with Approximately 11,000 Citations Issued for Impaired Driving and Other Violations***

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. – The Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving and the Traffic Safety Division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) announced today the results of the recently concluded *“Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.”* Labor Day crackdown. Approximately 11,000 citations were issued statewide as a result of the increased enforcement during the impaired driving mobilization that began on August 17 and concluded on September 9.

In northwestern Indiana, nearly 1,400 hours of overtime were put in by more than 125 officers during the campaign. These officers issued 1,600 citations for impaired driving and other moving violations.

“Impaired driving has far reaching ramifications. It does not just start and stop with the person behind the wheel driving impaired,” said Mike Cunegin, executive director of ICJI. “As a former law enforcement officer, I know first hand that a crash involving an impaired driver is devastating. What is even more tragic is that these crashes are clearly preventable.”

According to the Traffic Safety Alcohol Fact Sheet from the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, 273 people, out of 899 total fatalities, lost their lives in traffic crashes in Indiana in 2006 due to an impaired driver. “Although this statistic is disturbing, I remain encouraged by the aggressive efforts of Indiana law enforcement and their continued crackdown on impaired drivers,” said Ryan Klitzsch, Traffic Safety division director at ICJI.

“I am confident high-visibility enforcement and intense media coverage deployed during this (DUI) campaign worked to heighten the public’s awareness of the dangers of impaired driving. However, drivers should be aware that sustained drunk driving enforcement will continue beyond this campaign,” Klitzsch concluded.

Governor's Council on  
Impaired & Dangerous Driving



101 West Washington St. • Suite 1170 • Indianapolis, IN • 46204

Mike Cunegin, Executive Director

[www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji)

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This year's "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." enforcement crackdown benefited Hoosiers in many ways. While its primary purpose was to deter impaired driving through high-visibility enforcement, the mobilization also countered other potential traffic hazards, and rid local streets and neighborhoods of criminal activity. Following is a breakdown of significant arrests that occurred as a result of Indiana's increased DUI enforcement efforts:

County	Department	Significant Arrests
Jasper	Rensselaer PD	Seventeen underage drinking arrests were made.
Lake	Merrillville PD	Merrillville police officer stopped a vehicle suspected for DUI, the officer found the suspect in possession of 1 gram of rock cocaine. The suspect was charged with a DUI and possession of cocaine. Another vehicle was stopped in which the driver was found and charged with the possession of marijuana. Two warrants were served, and a public intoxication arrest was made.

The national *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* impaired driving crackdown is a prevention program organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity.

*The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides grant funding, training, coordination and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates through funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.*

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